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Joseph Du

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EXAMINER

ROSE, HELENE ROBERTA

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,157	Applicant(s) DU ET AL.	
	Examiner Helene R. Rose	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09 July 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1-38 have been presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-38 have been rejected.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed on July 9, 2003 has been considered.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hughes et al (US Patent No. 5,893,074).

Claims 1,6,11,16,21, and 26:

Regarding claims 1,6,11, 16, 21, and 26, Hughes teaches a computer-implemented system for managing a project (column 4, lines 25-27, wherein the invention effectively manages and controls large-scale, complex projects and column 5, lines 24-26, wherein a computational component is a computer program written in a language which is compatible with the database Hughes), comprising:

means for receiving data representing attributes of a project from a project manager, the project comprising at least one task (Figure 2A and 2B, all features and column 5, lines 56-58, wherein a contract defining the particular product to be delivered or received is established for

each of these relationships using the schedule-control method as defined in column 5, lines 44-51, Hughes);

means for receiving data identifying attributes of the task (column 5, lines 63-67, Hughes);

means for receiving data identifying an assignment of each task to at least one task-responsible person (column 6, lines 17-23, wherein first set of input data identifies and defines the product, Hughes);

means for automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person, the notice identifying the assignment of the task (column 4, lines 56-67, wherein output data indicates the project status wherein its interpreted to be identifying the assignment of task, and column 10, lines 29-33, wherein remainders are sent over the electronic use interface and wherein the remainders provides a mechanism for suppliers and receivers to complete their particular product or task and the computational component is programmed to automatically send emails through the interface to the reasonable parties, Hughes);

means for receiving at least one task report from the corresponding task-responsible person (column 8, lines 55-57, wherein the task report states no deliverable and the supplier agrees to deliver the product with the current name to form an agreement, Hughes);

a database storing data representing attributes of the project, data identifying attributes of the task, data identifying an assignment of the at least one task, and the task report (column 4, lines 27-34, wherein using an electronic user interface, relational database, and computational component and these features are designed to process input data organized in a preferred rec/del format, wherein this format effectively separates the project into a series of smaller tasks, each

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of which involves a contract between a supplier and a receiver, and wherein each contract relates in some way to the production of a product, and column 5, lines 21-32, wherein data is stored in database are then analyzed with a computational component to determine the contract and states of each product, Hughes);

means for permitting the corresponding task-responsible person and the project manager to edit the task report (column 11, lines 38-44, wherein a form is completed by all Technical Managers before working on a task and wherein empowered users create, view, edit, and print WPA's 70 using the WPA's 30 system and wherein each WPA 70 documents the task by including its title 72, date 74, users who perform the work 76, the objectives of the task 78, and a description of the approach used to work on the task 80, Hughes);

means for permitting at least one other person to have a read-only access to the task report (column 8, lines 10-13, wherein the product was reconciled and the supplier cannot make the original agreed-to delivery date, and has changed it to a later date, Hughes).

Claims 2, 12, and 22:

Regarding claims 2, 12, and 22, Hughes teaches wherein the project comprises a plurality of tasks (Figure 1, diagrams 14a-14d, Hughes);

the means for receiving attribute data identified attributes of each of a plurality of tasks (Figure 1, diagrams 15a-15d, Hughes); and

the report receiving means receives a plurality of task reports from a plurality of corresponding task-responsible persons (Figure 1, diagrams 16, 18, and 20, wherein data are processed and analyzed with the computational component 20 to generate output data for the

suppliers and receivers and wherein output data are stored in the relational database 18, and these data are accessed via electronic user interface 16 by various suppliers and receivers involved with the project as defined in column 5, lines 27-32, Hughes).

Claims 3,13, and 23:

Regarding claims 3,13, 23, Hughes teaches wherein means for receiving assignment data identifies the assignment of at least one other person having read-only access to the task report. (column 8, lines 10-13, wherein the product was reconciled and the supplier cannot make the original agreed-to delivery date, and has changed it to a later date, Hughes).

Claims 4,14, and 24:

Regarding claims 4, 14, and 24, Hughes teaches means for automatically providing a notice to the project manager upon completion of one of the tasks (column 10, lines 29-33, wherein remainders are sent over the electronic use interface and wherein the remainders provides a mechanism for suppliers and receivers to complete their particular product or task and the computational component is programmed to automatically send emails through the interface to the reasonable parties, Hughes).

Claims 5,10,15,20,25,and 30:

Regarding claims 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30, Hughes teaches wherein the data identifying attributes of the task contain a due date (column 10, lines 61-62, Hughes), the system further comprising:

means for automatically providing a notice to the task-responsible person (column 10, lines 29-33, Hughes), the notice identifying the due date (column 10, lines 23-27, wherein new reports which identify both remaining unrecognized receivable/deliverable products and broken

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agreements, Hughes), the notice being provided a predetermined number of days before the due date (column 7, lines 11-15, Hughes).

Claims 7,17, and 27:

Regarding claims 7, 17, and 27, Hughes teaches wherein the attribute data receiving means receives data representing attributes of a plurality of items (column 4, lines 56-60, Hughes); and

the report receiving means receives a plurality of item reports from a plurality of corresponding item-responsible persons (column 6, lines 17-23, wherein first set of input data identifies and defines the product, Hughes).

Claims 8,18, and 28:

Regarding claims 8, 18, and 28, Hughes teaches wherein the assignment data receiving means identifies the assignment of the at least one other person having read-only access to the item report (column 8, lines 10-13, wherein the product was reconciled and the supplier cannot make the original agreed-to delivery date, and has changed it to a later date, Hughes).

Claims 9,19, and 29:

Regarding claims 9,19, and 29, Hughes teaches means for automatically providing a notice to the corresponding task-responsible person upon completion of one of items (column 4, lines 56-67, wherein output data indicates the project status wherein its interpreted to be identifying the assignment of task, and column 10, lines 29-33, wherein remainders are sent over the electronic use interface and wherein the remainders provides a mechanism for suppliers and receivers to complete their particular product or task and the

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computational component is programmed to automatically send emails through the interface to the reasonable parties, Hughes)

Claim 31:

Regarding claim 31, Hughes teaches a computer-implemented opinion integration system (column 4, lines 38-42, wherein data may not agree with the supplier schedule, wherein opinion can also be referred to as a decision, judgment or ruling, Hughes), comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of patent related data (Figure 4, all features, wherein a plurality of patent data consist of identification number, name, due date, received date, and so forth and columns 10-11 lines 54-67, lines 1-5, Hughes);

means for sending a request for an opinion associated with the patent related data to a predetermined person (Figure 3A, diagram 53, Hughes);

means for receiving the opinion details (Figure 3A, diagram 56, Hughes);

a database for associating the opinion with the patent related data and for storing the opinion and the patent related data (Figure 3A, diagrams 58, 59, and 60, and column 4, lines 27-34, wherein using an electronic user interface, relational database, and computational component and these features are designed to process input data organized in a preferred rec/del format, wherein this format effectively separates the project into a series of smaller tasks, each of which involves a contract between a supplier and a receiver, and wherein each contract relates in some way to the production of a product, and column 5, lines 21-32, wherein data is stored in database are then analyzed with a computational component to determine the contract and states of each product, Hughes)

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Claim 32:

Regarding claim 32, Hughes teaches a computer-implemented information integration system (column 5, lines 24-26, wherein a computational component is a computer program written in a language which is compatible with the database, and wherein integration system is defined as a system in which separate programs perform separate functions with communication and data-passing between functional programs performing standardized I/O routines and a common data-base, Hughes) comprising:

a database for receiving a plurality of patent data (Figure 4, all features, wherein a plurality of patent data consist of identification number, name, due date, received date, and so forth and columns 10-11 lines 54-67, lines 1-5, Hughes);

the database for receiving a plurality of entity data (Figure 4, diagrams 140, wherein entity is defined to be something that has separate and distinct existence and objective or conceptual reality, and Figure 6, diagram 72, wherein the work package agreement (WPA) is defining it's entities as in Project Planning, Science Management Plan, and so forth, Hughes);

the database for receiving a plurality of evidence data (column 6, lines 12-23, wherein evidence data is identifies the data and product analysis data, Hughes);

the database associating the patent data, the entity data, and the evidence data to each other and storing the patent data, the entity data, and the evidence data (column 4, lines 27-34, wherein using an electronic user interface, relational database, and computational component and these features are designed to process input data organized in a preferred rec/del format, wherein this format effectively separates the project into a series of smaller tasks, each of which involves a contract between a supplier and a receiver, and wherein each contract relates in some way to

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the production of a product and column 5, lines 21-32, wherein data is stored in database are then analyzed with a computational component to determine the contract and states of each product, Hughes)

Claim 33:

Regarding claim 33, wherein the patent data comprises patent-identifying data and patent-abstract data (Figure 6, diagram 80, wherein a description of the approach used to work on the task 80 and column 6, lines 17-23, wherein data identifies and defines product, Hughes)

Claim 34:

Regarding claim 34, wherein the entity data comprises entity-identifying data, entity-products data, and entity-finance data (Figure 8, all features, wherein entity finance data is interpreted to be the baseline plan and Figure 4, diagrams 140, wherein entity is defined to be something that has separate and distinct existence and objective or conceptual reality and Figure 6, diagram 72, wherein the work package agreement (WPA) is defining it's entities as in Project Planning, Science Management Plan, and so forth, Hughes);

Claim 35:

Regarding claim 35, wherein the evidence data comprises product-analysis data and associated publication data (Figure 8, all features, wherein it shows a planned versus actual graph plotting the status of series of products over a twelve week period of the project, Hughes).

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Claim 36:

Regarding claim 36, wherein the product-analysis data comprises an outside reverse-engineering report and an internal reverse-engineering report (column 4, lines 44-49, wherein reverse engineering is defined to be a method of analyzing a product in which the finished item is studied to determine its makeup or component parts and column 5, lines 9-15, wherein the project is broken down into a series of large scale tasks, and each large scale task is broken into smaller tasks, and each task results in a product and wherein products are designs, mechanical, or electrical parts, tests, or reports, Hughes)

Claim 37:

Regarding claim 37, wherein the associated publication data comprises paper publication data and website-publication data (column 10, lines 10-15, wherein the output data can indicate a project history which is maintained by a comparison between the current and previous states of the various products of the project and wherein the output data are preferably sent electronically over the electronic user interface, and output data can be printed on paper and distributed to suppliers and receivers, Hughes).

Claim 38:

Regarding claim 38, Hughes teaches means for receiving a search query (column 9, lines 30-40, wherein the receiver inputs a date, and the supplier inputs available date, and wherein the product is reconciled and no action is required, Hughes);

means for searching the database (column 9, lines 52-54, wherein the receiver finds a way to receive the product on the original date, Hughes); and

means for presenting a search result (column 9, lines 58-65, wherein the two parties continues until a resolution is reached, Hughes).

Prior art of Record

1. Hughes et al (US Patent No. 5,893,074) discloses an schedule-control method for managing and controlling projects wherein it is implemented on components that includes an electronic user interface, relational database, and computational component, wherein these components are designed to process input data in a well-defined format called a receivable/deliverable (rec/del) format, and while using the format, the project is broken down into a series of smaller components or "tasks".
2. Saito et al (US Patent No. 6,032,124) discloses a workflow system consisting of a plurality of workflow subsystems connected to a local area network, wherein these workflow subsystems are being composed of servers and clients, in which it provides a workflow system that permits an integrated management of the definitions of the business processes placed under decentralized management, through the server managing shipping documents, business processes (BP's) that describes the shipping routes of shipping documents in the subsystem, and business process connection data to connect the BPs.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene R. Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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January 31, 2006


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